(ग) यदि हां, तो इस योजना के कब तक क्रियान्वित किए जाने का विचार है?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव): (क) जापानी स्टील मिल्स के साथ हुए विद्यमान दीर्घकालिक करार जो बैलाडीला सहित देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से लौह अयस्क की सप्लाई से संबंधित है, वर्ष 1995-96 में समाप्त होगा।

(ख) और (ग) बैलाडीला लौह अयस्क का स्वदेशी लोहा और इस्पात संयंत्र जिसमें विशाखापत्तनम इस्पात संयंत्र भी शामिल है और विभिन्न स्पंज लौह संयंत्र पहले से ही उपयोग कर रहे हैं। कार्यान्वयनाधीन कुछ स्पंज लोहा/कच्चा लोहा संयंत्रों का भी बैलाडीला लौह अयस्क का उपयोग करने का प्रस्ताव है।

Reduction in Steel price by SAIL

3942. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited have decided to reduce the prices of steel to bring it in line with the prevailing international market;

(b) if so, whether the prices of steel in the international market is far below than the prices of steel in the country;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to bring down the prices of steel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the International market, the prices of various categories of steel fluctuate from time to time depending on the International Trade in steel. The export prices of steel from countries like Japan, Germany and Brazil are much lower than their own internal market prices. Therefore, a comparision of the domestic prices of Indian Steel with the International prices will not be appropriate. However, the production cost of steel in SAIL Steel Plants exclusive of duties and levies is still comparable to the cost of production of steel in Japan, Germany and USA.

(c) After de-regulation of prices and distribution of Iran and Steel w.e.f. 16.1.1992 the main producers art free to determine their prices, However, open, market prices of steel vary from time to time and place to place due to various factors including local demand-supply situation, overall steel demand-supply position in the country, prices of steel in international market and levels of import.

During the last three months the open market prices of different steel items have shown a general decline. On an average, while the open market prices of long products like billets, wire rods, rounds, channels and tor-steel have shown a decline of 2% to 8%, those of flat products like plates, HR coils, GP/ GC sheets have shown a decline of 1% to 6%.

Import of Coking Coal

3943. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Iron and Steel Company have offered to Government to act as the canalising agency for the import of low ash coking coal for all the integrated steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, whether the proposal given by the Tata Iron and Steel Company would adversely affect on the policy of the SAIL; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No formal offer has been received by Government from the Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.